

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1587

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, UR

SUBJECT: ROK RELATIONS WITH USSR

SUMMARY: ROKG INTERESTED IN U. S. SUPPORT FOR ITS OVERTURES
TO USSR. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE' ON CURRENT DPRK CAMPAIGN
TO WIN DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION AND BROADEN ITS INTERNATIONAL
BASE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS VICE MINISTER YUN SAID ROKG, FOR ITS
PART, WAS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH USSR
AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE. SOVIET MISSIONS
IN THIRD COUNTRIES HAD BEEN NOTICEABLY MORE FRIENDLY AND
APPROACHABLE IN RECENT MONTHS BUT ONLY AT THE LEVEL OF
POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND BELOW. CONTACTS HAD ALSO BEEN MADE
BY MILITARY ATTACHES AND COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL OFFICERS.
EFFORTS AT AMBASSADOR AND DCM LEVEL, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN
UNPRODUCTIVE.

2. YUN CONTINUED THAT WHEN ROKG ABOUT TWO SEARS AGO HAD DECIDED
TO TRY TO OPEN TRADE AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH " NON- HOSTILE"
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, USG HAD ENCOURAGED THIS MOVE, BUT HAD FELT
IT WAS PREFERABLE FOR THE ROKG TO PURSUE THIS POLICY WITHOUT
DIRECT USG SUPPORT.

3. NOTING THE CHANGE IN THE WORLD SITUATION SINCE 1971, YUN
ASKED IF THE USG WOULD CONSIDER RE- EXAMINING THIS POSITION.
HE OBSERVED THAT THE PRC WAS MOST ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE
DPRK' S CAMPAIGN FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. SIMILAR SUPPORT
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FROM ROK ALLIES MIGHT HELP HIS GOVERNMENT IN BROADENING ITS
DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC BASE AND CONTRIBUTE TO GENERAL
TREND OF REDUCTION OF WORLD TENSIONS.

4. COMMENT: YUN' S APPROACH WAS TENTATIVE AND EXPLORATORY. HE
WAS NOT PRESSING FOR SUPPORT BUT RATHER ASKING FOR US
TO CONSIDER WHETHER SUCH SUPPORT MIGHT NOW BE PRODUCTIVE.
DEPARTMENT' S VIEWS WOULD BE APPREICATED.
UNDERHILL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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